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The GUARDIAN.

Fata viam invenient——— Virg.

Tuesday, September 22. 1713.

THE following Story is lately Translated out of an *Arabian* Manuscript, which I think has very much the Turn of an Oriental Tale, and as it has never before been Printed, I question not but it will be highly acceptable to my Reader.

The Name of *Helim* is still famous through all the Eastern Parts of the World. He is called among the *Persians*, even to this Day, *Helim* the great Physician. He was acquainted with all the Powers of Simples, understood all the Influences of the Stars, and knew the Secrets that were Engraved on the Seal of *Solomon* the Son of *David*. *Helim* was also Governor of the Black Palace, and chief of the Physicians to *Alnareschin* the great King of *Persia*.

Alnareschin was the most dreadful Tyrant that ever reigned in this Country. He was of a fearful, suspicious and cruel Nature, having put to Death upon very slight Jealousies and Surmises five and thirty of his Queens, and above twenty Sons, whom he suspected to have conspired against his Life. Being at length wearied with the Exercise of so many Cruelties in his own Family, and fearing lest the whole Race of *Caliphs* should be entirely lost, he one Day sent for *Helim*, and spoke to him after this manner. *Helim*, said he, *I have long admired thy great Wisdom, and retired way of living. I shall now shew thee the entire Confidence which I place in thee. I have only two Sons remaining, who are as yet but Infants. It is my design that thou take them home with thee, and educate them as thy own. Train them up in the humble unambitious Pursuits of Knowledge. By this means shall the Line of* Caliphs *be preserved, and my Children succeed after me, without aspiring to my Throne whilst I am yet alive.* The Words of my Lord the King shall be obeyed, said *Helim*. After which he bowed, and went out of the King's Presence. He then received the Children into his own House, and from that time bred them up with him in the Studies of Knowledge and Vertue. The young Princes loved and respected *Helim* as their Father, and made such Improvements under him, that by the Age of One and twenty they were instructed in all the Learning of the *East*. The Name of the eldest was *Ibrahim*, and of the youngest *Abdallah*. They lived together in such a perfect Friendship, that to this Day it is said of intimate Friends, that they live together like *Ibrahim* and *Abdallah*. *Helim* had an only Child, who was a Girl of a fine Soul, and a most beautiful Person. Her Father omitted nothing in her Education, that might make her the most accomplished Woman of her Age. As the young Princes were in a manner excluded from the rest of the World, they frequently conversed with this lovely Virgin, who had been brought up by

pretending to visit the young Princes his Sons, demanded of *Helim* the sight of *Balsora* his fair Daughter. The King was so enflamed with her Beauty and Behaviour, that he sent for *Helim* the next Morning, and told him it was now his design to recompence him for all his faithful Services; and that in order to it, he intended to make his Daughter Queen of *Persia*. *Helim*, who knew very well the Fate of all those unhappy Women who had been thus advanced, and could not but be privy to the secret Love which *Abdallah* bore his Daughter, *Far be it*, said he, *from the King of* Persia *to contaminate the Blood of the* Caliphs, *and join himself in Marriage with the Daughter of his Physician.* The King, however, was so impatient for such a Bride, that without hearing any Excuses, he immediately order'd *Balsora* to be sent for into his Presence, keeping the Father with him, in order to make her sensible of the Honour which he designed her. *Balsora*, who was too modest and humble to think her Beauty had made such an Impression on the King, was a few Moments after brought into his Presence as he had commanded.

She appeared in the King's Eye as one of the Virgins of *Paradise*. But upon hearing the Honour which he intended her, she fainted away, and fell down as Dead at his Feet. *Helim* wept, and after having recovered her out of the Trance into which she was fallen, represented to the King, that so unexpected an Honour was too great to have been communicated to her all at once; but that, if he pleased, he would himself prepare her for it. The King bid him take his own way, and dismist him. *Balsora* was convey'd again to her Father's House, where the Thoughts of *Abdallah* renewed her Affliction every Moment; insomuch that at length she fell into a raging Fever. The King was informed of her Condition by those that saw her. *Helim* finding no other means of extricating her from the Difficulties she was in, after having composed her Mind, and made her acquainted with his Intentions, gave her a certain Potion, which he knew would lay her asleep for many Hours; and afterwards, in all the seeming Distress of a disconsolate Father, informed the King she was dead. The King, who never let any Sentiments of Humanity come too near his Heart, did not much trouble himself about the Matter; however, for his own Reputation, he told the Father, that since 'twas known through the Empire, that *Balsora* died at a time when he designed her for his Bride, it was his Intention that she should be honoured as such after her Death, and that her Body should be laid in the Black Palace, among those of his Deceased Queens.

In the mean time *Abdallah*, who had heard of the King's design